

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS PRESS RELEASE

For release, May 27, 2004

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Richard R. Conte, M.D., a 54 year-old physician formerly from Carson City, Nevada, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Iowa Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On March 18, 2004, the Iowa Board charged Dr. Conte for being convicted of a felony and for being disciplined by the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners. On December 17, 2002, Dr. Conte pleaded guilty in Nevada to two felonies, second degree kidnapping and unlawful administration of a controlled substance. On May 31, 2003, Dr. Conte surrendered his Nevada medical license to resolve pending disciplinary charges for being convicted of a felony in violation of the laws governing the practice of medicine in Nevada. Under the terms of the Iowa Settlement Agreement, Dr. Conte voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license.

Stephen K. Jones, M.D., a 34 year-old resident physician practicing in Iowa City, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. The Board charged Dr. Jones with the inability to practice medicine and surgery with reasonable skill and safety due to the excessive use of drugs; prescribing controlled substances to a member of his immediate family for an extended period of time; fraudulently signing another physician's name on a prescription in order to obtain controlled substances for an immediate family member; and diverting controlled drugs intended for others for his personal use. Dr. Jones successfully completed a Board-approved substance abuse evaluation and the evaluation program determined he is safe to return to the practice of medicine subject to certain terms and conditions. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement entered into with the Iowa Board, Dr. Jones' Iowa medical license was suspended for thirty (30) days and placed on indefinite probation subject to certain terms and conditions due to substance abuse. Dr. Jones was issued a Citation and Warning for his conduct and he was ordered to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty.

Walter H. Kim, M.D., a 31 year-old physician practicing in Iowa City, Iowa, entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board. Upon application for an Iowa resident physician medical license, the Board learned that Dr. Kim had been disciplined by the Board of Medicine of California for failing to provide complete information on his California medical license application. Dr. Kim failed to inform the California Board of a 1992 conviction for driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol. Dr. Kim did inform the California Board that he was convicted of DUI on a separate occasion in April 2003. Under the terms of the Iowa Consent Agreement, Dr. Kim was issued an Iowa resident physician medical license subject to certain terms and conditions including alcohol abuse monitoring.

Charles P. Pritchard, D.O., a 66 year-old physician from Bettendorf, Iowa, had disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. The Board charged Dr. Pritchard with the inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety due to the excessive use of drugs and alcohol and with violating a Board Order when he consumed alcohol and failed to notify the Board of all of his practice locations in violation of the terms of his May 29, 2003, Board Order. Dr. Pritchard has a long history of disciplinary action with the Board for quality of care concerns and substance abuse. A hearing is scheduled in this matter for July 6, 2004.

Bryon J. Schaeffer, M.D., a 36 year-old physician from Ankeny, Iowa, had disciplinary charges filed against his Iowa medical license. The Board charged Dr. Schaeffer with engaging in unprofessional conduct when engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a subordinate female co-worker, whom he had provided medical treatment, in violation of professional boundaries. Dr. Schaeffer was also charged with engaging in a pattern of sexual harassment of several subordinate female co-workers between 1994 and 2003. Dr. Schaeffer had sexual relations with at least four of the subordinate female co-workers. A hearing is scheduled in this matter for July 6, 2004.